

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A coating material comprising a fractionated yeast cell wall and at least one member selected from the group consisting of viscous polysaccharides, oligosaccharides, hardened fats and oils, waxes, sugar alcohols and starch hydrolyzates, said coating material, when applied to the exterior of a core substance, forming a layer of the coating material which covers the core substance as a discrete layer.

2. (original): The coating material as described in claim 1, wherein the viscous polysaccharide is pullulan.

3. (original): The coating material as described in claim 1, wherein the oligosaccharide is at least one member selected from the group consisting of trehalose, paratinose and raffinose.

4. (currently amended): A coated powder comprising a core substance in a powdery or granular form of 30 to 3000 μm in an average particle size having been coated with 0.05 to 1.5 parts by weight of a coating material comprising a fractionated yeast cell wall and at least one member selected from the group consisting of viscous polysaccharides, oligosaccharides, hardened fats and oils, waxes, sugar alcohols and starch hydrolyzates per 1 part by weight of said core substance, said coating material being applied to the exterior of the core substance so as to form a layer of the coating material which covers the core substance as a discrete layer.

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5. (previously presented): The coated powder as described in claim 4, wherein the thickening polysaccharide is pullulan.

6. (original): The coated powder as described in claim 4, wherein the oligosaccharide is at least one member selected from the group consisting of trehalose, palatinose and raffinose.

7. (previously presented): The coated powder as described in claim 4, wherein the core substance is a flavor composition, a color material, an acidity regulator, a seasoning, a sweetener, a spice, a vitamin, a powdered form of polyphenols of perilla extract or buckwheat, propolis, royal jelly, or a mixture of two or more of them.

8. (original): The coated powder as described in claim 7, wherein the core substance is a flavor composition.

9. (currently amended): A food or beverage composition which comprises the coated powder described in any one of claims 4, 5, 6, 7[, 8, 12, 13, 14 or 15] or 8.

10. (currently amended): A perfumy cosmetic composition which comprises the coated powder described in any one of claims 4, 5, 6, 7[, 8, 12, 13, 14 or 15] or 8.

11. (currently amended): A process for producing a coated powder, which comprises spraying a solution of a coating material comprising a fractionated yeast cell wall and at least one member selected from the group consisting of viscous polysaccharides, oligosaccharides, hardened fats and oils, waxes, sugar alcohols and starch hydrolyzates against a core substance in a powdery or granular form of 30 to 3000 μm in an average particle size under stirring or in a

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fluidized state to thereby coat the core substance with 0.05 to 1.5 parts by weight of the coating material per 1 part by weight of said core substance, 4. ~~(Amended) A coated powder comprising a core substance in a powdery or granular form of 30 to 3000 μm in an average particle size having been coated with 0.05 to 1.5 parts by weight of a coating material comprising a fractionated yeast cell wall and at least one member selected from the group consisting of viscous polysaccharides, oligosaccharides, hardened fats and oils, waxes, sugar alcohols per 1 part by weight of said core substance, said coating material being applied to the exterior of the core substance so as to form a layer of the coating material which covers the core substance as a discrete layer.~~

12. (previously presented): The coated powder as described in claim 5, wherein the core substance is a flavor composition, a color material, an acidity regulator, a seasoning, a sweetener, a spice, a vitamin, a powdered form of polyphenols of perilla extract or buckwheat, propolis, royal jelly, or a mixture of two or more of them.

13. (previously presented): The coated powder as described in claim 6, wherein the core substance is a flavor composition, a color material, an acidity regulator, a seasoning, a sweetener, a spice, a vitamin, a powdered form of polyphenols of perilla extract or buckwheat, propolis, royal jelly, or a mixture of two or more of them.

14. (previously presented): The coated powder as described in claim 12, wherein the core substance is a flavor composition.

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15. (previously presented): The coated powder as described in claim 13, wherein the core substance is a flavor composition.

16. (canceled).

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (new): The coating material as described in claim 1 wherein said at least one member is the viscous polysaccharides.

20. (new): The coating material as described in claim 1 wherein said at least one member is the oligosaccharides.

21. (new): The coating material as described in claim 1 wherein said at least one member is the hardened fats and oils.

22. (new): The coating material as described in claim 1 wherein said at least one member is the waxes.

23. (new): The coating material as described in claim 1 wherein said at least one member is the sugar alcohols.

24. (new): The coated powder as described in claim 4, wherein said at least one member is the viscous polysaccharides.

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25. (new): The coated powder as described in claim 4, wherein said at least one member is the oligosaccharides.

26. (new): The coated powder as described in claim 4, wherein said at least one member is the hardened fats and oils.

27. (new): The coated powder as described in claim 4, wherein said at least one member is the waxes.

28. (new): The coated powder as described in claim 4, wherein said at least one member is the sugar alcohols.

29. (new): The process as described in claim 11, wherein said at least one member is the viscous polysaccharides.

30. (new): The process as described in claim 11, wherein said at least one member is the oligosaccharides.

31. (new): The process as described in claim 11, wherein said at least one member is the hardened fats and oils.

32. (new): The process as described in claim 11, wherein said at least one member is the waxes.

33. (new): The process as described in claim 11, wherein said at least one member is the sugar alcohols.